

*F RERAU -
hate crime
incident*

News Release

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August 27, 1986

LOS ANGELES -- Attorney General John K. Van de Kamp today urged anyone with information about a series of hate crimes against an interracial Westchester couple to contact the Attorney General's office.

Joining the Westside Fair Housing Council in a news conference in the Attorney General's Los Angeles office, Van de Kamp said the crimes against Tori and Robson Dufau -- who were forced to flee their home as a result of racist threats, vandalism and the killing of a family pet -- represent "a type of crime which goes straight to the heart of what this country stands for."

"A small group of twisted individuals has terrorized an innocent family for no reason other than their racial and ethnic backgrounds," Van de Kamp said. "In the process they have defamed an entire community of decent people who abhor their hateful views. And they have put a stain on a proud American tradition of tolerance and diversity."

The council is offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest, prosecution and conviction of those responsible for crimes against the Dufau family.

Van de Kamp's office entered the case in March after other agencies declined to pursue the investigation. Harassment of the couple and their two young children began last November when a handbill advocating white supremacism and insulting blacks and other minorities was placed in the Dufau's mailbox.

The harassment escalated with racist literature and signs placed on the couple's front porch, letters sent through the U.S. Mail and the house and car pelted with eggs. In April, the family's pet rabbit was killed. The Dufau's moved in May.

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Van de Kamp said his investigators "have worked diligently on the case and have developed some very useful information."

"We are now certain, for example, that all the crimes were the work of the same group of individuals -- possibly even one person," he added. "We are hopeful that the offer of a reward will produce information that leads to their arrest, prosecution and conviction."

The Attorney General's investigation is being conducted by the Civil Rights Enforcement Section and the Bureau of Investigation -- it is the first such investigation by the Attorney General's office under provisions of the Ralph Civil Rights Act. The Ralph Act was recently amended at Van de Kamp's request and on the recommendation of the Attorney General's Commission on Racial Ethnic Religious and Minority Violence (RERMV), to impose criminal penalties for perpetrators of hate crimes.

The commission completed its report to the Attorney General last spring, making 38 recommendations for strengthening law and practice to "cope with crimes like those against the Dufaus," Van de Kamp said. Several of the commission's key recommendations have been passed by the Legislature in the form of amendments to the Ralph Act.

"Unfortunately," he added, "this kind of hate crime is not all that unusual in California," Van de Kamp said. "At a time when the people of this state are mobilizing their collective resources to bring economic pressure on the hateful regime of apartheid in South Africa, we must not allow a handful of racial terrorists to undermine the guarantees of equal rights and equal opportunity which are the cornerstone of our own democracy."

Persons having information about the Dufau case should contact Special Agent Jack Richards in the Attorney General's Bureau of Investigation at (213) 620-2009. The investigation is being coordinated by Deputy Attorney General Louis Verdugo, who can be reached at (213) 736-2610.

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September 29, 1989

→ Clemens
cc: Mercado
Ordin

cc: Morrison

To: Mr. John Meehan, District Attorney
Alameda County
1225 - Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612

From: West Coast Region NAACP
Racial Intolerance Task Force
27 - Carolyn Drive
Pittsburg, CA 94565

Subject: Terrorist Act In San Leandro

Dear Mr. Meehan:

This letter is written to you as the prosecutor in the case of Dean Gordon Foster. He is the young man arrested in the case of a cross burning, a terrorist act, at the home of a black family in San Leandro, CA. My organization was extremely dismayed by the public announcement made by the Chief of Police of the City of San Leandro at the press conference held to alert the public that an arrest had been made, and that his investigation convinced him that there was no racism involved, that this was merely an act of a drunken youth.

Our research has confirmed our worst suspicion and fears that law enforcement continues to underestimate the significance of the neo-nazi hate groups and their sympathizers. They are quick to label terrorist acts malicious mischief, vandalism and simple assault. Thus, these vicious thugs are given a slap on the wrist, pay a minimum penalty and are free to continue to wreak their evil upon innocent - unsuspecting victims.

We will no longer tolerate this type of justice. We demand that a careful and thorough investigation be conducted by those whose task it is to do so. That these racist criminals be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, under the acts of law applicable to these crimes, both State and Federal.
[Anti-klan, Ralph and Banes Acts]

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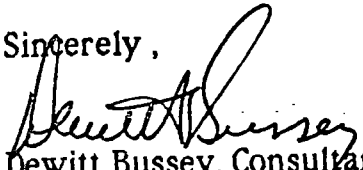
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We trust your wisdom, judgement and integrity and are thus confident that real justice will be served and a vicious criminal will be sent to jail for the maximum limit of time allowed by law.

Sincerely ,

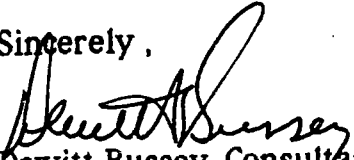

Dewitt Bussey, Consultant
Racial Intolerance Task Force

Copies Furnished:

Mary King, Supervisor, District 3, Alameda County
✓ John Van De Camp, California State Attorney General
Jim Martin, Director, West Coast Region NAACP
Community Relations Director, U. S. Department of Justice
Chairman, California Fair Employment and Housing Commission
News Editors: Oakland Tribune, The Post
Channel - 2 and Channel - 4

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